

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An image processing system, comprising:

an image pickup device for transferring image data obtained by picking up an image of a subject; and

an image processing apparatus for obtaining the transferred image data;

wherein the image pickup device includes:

image pickup means for picking up the image of the subject and generating the image data, +

generating means for generating representative image data representing the image data generated by the image pickup means, + and

supplying means for supplying the representative image data and the image data to the image processing apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially ~~before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the generating means generating new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the supplying means interrupts the supplying of the image data to the image processing apparatus, supplies the new representative image data to the image processing apparatus, and then resumes the supplying of the image data to the image processing apparatus after completing the supplying of the new representative image data; and

the image processing apparatus includes:

obtaining means for obtaining the representative image data and the image data supplied from the image pickup device, +

displaying means for displaying the representative image data obtained by the obtaining

means₊, and

storing means for storing the representative image data and the image data obtained by the obtaining means in association with each other.

2. (currently amended) An image processing system, comprising:

an image pickup device for transferring image data obtained by picking up an image of a subject;

an image managing apparatus for managing the transferred image data; and

an image processing apparatus for obtaining the image data managed by the image managing apparatus;

wherein the image pickup device includes:

image pickup means for picking up the image of the subject and generating the image data₊

generating means for generating representative image data representing the image data generated by the image pickup means₊, and

first supplying means for supplying the representative image data and the image data to the image managing apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially ~~before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the generating means generating new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the first supplying means interrupts the supplying of the image data to the image managing apparatus, supplies the new representative image data to the image managing apparatus, and then resumes the supplying of the image data to the image managing apparatus after completing the supplying of the new representative image data;

the image managing apparatus includes:

first obtaining means for obtaining the representative image data and the image data supplied from the image pickup device₇,

managing means for managing the representative image data and the image data obtained by the first obtaining means in association with each other₇, and

second supplying means for supplying the representative image data and the image data to the image processing apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially ~~before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the first obtaining means obtaining new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the second supplying means interrupts the supplying of the image data to the image processing apparatus, supplies the new representative image data to the image processing apparatus, and then resumes the supplying of the image data to the image processing apparatus after completing the supplying of the new representative image data; and
the image processing apparatus includes:

second obtaining means for obtaining the representative image data and the image data supplied from the image managing apparatus₇,

displaying means for displaying the representative image data obtained by the second obtaining means₇, and

storing means for storing the representative image data and the image data obtained by the second obtaining means in association with each other.

3. (currently amended) An image pickup device, comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image of a

subject and generating image data;

generating means for generating representative image data representing the image data generated by the image pickup means; and

supplying means for supplying the representative image data and the image data to another apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially

supplying means for supplying the representative image data and the image data to the image processing apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially before—with respect to the image data so that upon the generating means generating new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the supplying means interrupts the supplying of the image data to the another apparatus, supplies the new representative image data to the another apparatus, and then resumes the supplying of the image data to the another apparatus after completing the supplying of the new representative image data.

4. (previously presented) The image pickup device as set forth in claim 3, wherein:

when the image pickup means generates new image data while the supplying means is supplying the image data to the another apparatus, the generating means generates new representative image data representing the new image data, and the supplying means preferentially supplies the new representative image data to the another apparatus before the image data being supplied.

5. (previously presented) The image pickup device as set forth in claim 3, further comprising receiving means for receiving control information on supply of the image data,

wherein the supplying means supplies the image data to the another apparatus based on the control information received by

the receiving means.

6. (previously presented) The image pickup device as set forth in claim 4, wherein:

the supplying means supplies related information on the image data to the another apparatus together with the representative image data or the new representative image data.

7. (previously presented) The image pickup device as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving a first cryptographic key supplied by the another apparatus;

cryptographic key generating means for generating a second cryptographic key for encrypting the image data generated by said image pickup means;

first encrypting means for generating first encrypted data by encrypting the image data generated by the image pickup means using the second cryptographic key; and

second encrypting means for generating second encrypted data by encrypting the second cryptographic key using the first cryptographic key;

wherein the related information on the image data is the second encrypted data.

8. (currently amended) An image pickup method, comprising:

generating image data obtained by picking up an image of a subject;

generating representative image data representing the generated image data; and

controlling supply so as to supply the representative image data and the image data to another apparatus, ~~so that~~ the representative image data is being supplied preferentially ~~before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the generation of new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked

up image, the supplying of the image data to the another apparatus is interrupted, the new representative image data is supplied to the another apparatus, and then the supplying of the image data to the another apparatus is resumed after completing the supplying of the new representative image data.

9. (previously presented) The image pickup method as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

when the image data generating step generates new image data while the generated image data is being supplied to the another apparatus, the representative image data generating step generates new representative image data representing the new image data, and the supply controlling step controls the supply so as to preferentially supply the new representative image data to the another apparatus before the image data being supplied.

10. (previously presented) The image pickup method as set forth in claim 8, further comprising receiving control information on supply of the image data,

wherein the supply controlling step controls the supply so as to supply the image data to the another apparatus based on the control information .

11. (previously presented) The image pickup method as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

the supply controlling step controls the supply so as to supply related information on the image data to the another apparatus together with the representative image data or the new representative image data.

12. (previously presented) The image pickup method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:

receiving a first cryptographic key supplied by the another apparatus;

generating a second cryptographic key for encrypting

the generated image data;

generating first encrypted data by encrypting the generated image data using the second cryptographic key; and

generating second encrypted data by encrypting the second cryptographic key using the first cryptographic key;

wherein the related information on the image data is the second encrypted data.

13. (currently amended) A recording medium recorded with a computer readable program for performing an image pickup method, the method comprising:

generating image data obtained by picking up an image of a subject;

generating representative image data representing the generated image data; and

controlling supply so as to supply the representative image data and the image data to another apparatus, ~~so that the representative image data is being supplied preferentially before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the generation of new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the supplying of the image data to the another apparatus is interrupted, the new representative image data is supplied to the another apparatus, and then the supplying of the image data to the another apparatus is resumed after completing the supplying of the new representative image data.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) An image processing system, comprising:

an image pickup device operable to transfer image data obtained by picking up an image of a subject; and

an image processing apparatus operable to obtain the

transferred image data;

the image pickup device including:

an image pickup unit operable to pick up the image of the subject and generate the image data₇,

a generator operable to generate representative image data representing the image data generated by the image pickup unit₇, and

a supplying unit operable to supply the representative image data and the image data to the image processing apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially ~~before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the generator generating new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the supplying unit interrupts the supplying of the image data to the image processing apparatus, supplies the new representative image data to the image processing apparatus, and then resumes the supplying of the image data to the image processing apparatus after completing the supplying of the new representative image data; and

the image processing apparatus including:

an obtaining unit operable to obtain the representative image data and the image data supplied from the image pickup device₇,

a displaying unit operable to display the representative image data obtained by the obtaining unit₇, and

a storage unit operable to store the representative image data and the image data obtained by the obtaining unit in association with each other.

16. (currently amended) An image processing system, comprising:

an image pickup device operable to transfer image data obtained by picking up an image of a subject;

an image managing apparatus operable to manage the transferred image data; and

an image processing apparatus operable to obtain the image data managed by the image managing apparatus;

the image pickup device including:

an image pickup unit operable to pick up the image of the subject and generate the image data₇₁

a generator operable to generate representative image data representing the image data generated by the image pickup unit₇₁ and

a first supplying unit operable to supply the representative image data and the image data to the image managing apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially ~~before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the generator generating new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the first supplying unit interrupts the supplying of the image data to the image managing apparatus, supplies the new representative image data to the image managing apparatus, and then resumes the supplying of the image data to the image managing apparatus after completing the supplying of the new representative image data;

the image managing apparatus including:

a first obtaining unit operable to obtain the representative image data and the image data supplied from the image pickup device₇₁

a managing unit operable to manage the representative image data and the image data obtained by the first obtaining unit in association with each

other₁, and

a second supplying unit operable to supply the representative image data and the image data to the image processing apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially ~~before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the first obtaining unit obtaining new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the second supplying unit interrupts the supplying of the image data to the image processing apparatus, supplies the new representative image data to the image processing apparatus, and then resumes the supplying of the image data to the image processing apparatus after completing the supplying of the new representative image data; and

the image processing apparatus including:

a second obtaining unit operable to obtain the representative image data and the image data supplied from the image managing apparatus₁,

a displaying unit operable to display the representative image data obtained by the second obtaining unit₁, and

a storage unit operable to store the representative image data and the image data obtained by the second obtaining unit in association with each other.

17. (currently amended) An image pickup device, comprising:

an image pickup unit operable to pick up an image of a subject and generate image data;

a generator operable to generate representative image data representing the image data generated by the image pickup unit; and

a supplying unit operable to supply the representative image data and the image data to another apparatus, the representative image data being supplied preferentially ~~before~~ with respect to the image data so that upon the generator generating new representative image data representing new image data generated from a newly picked up image, the supplying unit interrupts the supplying of the image data to the another apparatus, supplies the new representative image data to the another apparatus, and then resumes the supplying of the image data to the another apparatus after completing the supplying of the new representative image data.